

## **Commander Christopher D. Dotson**

### **Commanding Officer**

#### **Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 30**

Cmdr. Christopher D. Dotson is a native of New Castle, Pennsylvania, where he attended Neshannock High School. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and was commissioned in the United States Navy through the NROTC program in 1998.

After completing advanced flight training at Training Squadron (VT) 9 in Meridian, Mississippi, Dotson was designated a Naval Aviator. He completed initial C-2A Greyhound training with Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 120 in Norfolk, Virginia, after which he reported to Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 40 in Norfolk, Virginia, in 2001.

Dotson has deployed three times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn, operating from the USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) in 2001 and the USS Enterprise (CVN-65) in 2001 and 2011. He also deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in direct support of disaster relief and humanitarian efforts in response to the Jan. 10, 2010, earthquake in Haiti.

In December 2005, Dotson graduated with U.S. Navy Test Pilot School Class 128, and subsequently reported to Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 20 in Patuxent River, Maryland. There, he served as a Project Officer and Test Pilot, performing developmental flight test and evaluation on numerous aircraft and weapons systems. Dotson returned to VRC-40 in 2009, where he served as the Safety Officer, Maintenance Officer, and Officer-in-Charge of VRC-40 Det. 1. He then returned to VX-20, where he served first as the K/C-130 Platform Coordinator, and then as the MQ-4C Triton Government Flight Test Director of the System Development and Demonstration Integrated Test Team. During this tour, he re-designated into the Aerospace Engineering Duty Officer (AEDO) Community.

In October of 2014, Dotson reported to the Persistent Maritime Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program Office (PMA-262), where he led engineering development and airworthiness certification efforts for the Triton ACAT-ID Program. He reported to VX-30 as the Chief Test Pilot in July 2016, and took command of the squadron in November 2017.

Dotson is a designated Acquisition Professional with career field certifications in Test & Evaluation, Engineering, and Program Management. His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (six awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various unit and campaign awards.

